This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

establishing e-mail communication between a sender device and a receiver device which both have telephone numbers and access to the ~~Public Switched Telephone Network~~ public switched telephone network (PSTN), without the need of being connected to the Internet, further comprising the steps of:

A) establishing a data link, and point-to-point (PPP) connection between the sender and receiver devices; and

B) transferring one or more e-mail message(s) from the sender device to the receiver device over TCP/IP.

2. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

C) composing one or more electronic mail messages on the sender device through a graphical user interface (GUI) application;

D) setting up a telephone connection and data link from the sender device to the receiver device;

E) accepting an electronic mail message from the sender device by the receiver device;

F) storing an electronic mail message on the receiver device;

G) terminating the data link and telephone connection;

H) perceptibly indicating that an electronic mail message has been received by the receiver device; and

I) visually presenting the electronic mail message, including attached files, by a graphical user interface (GUI) application on the receiver device.

3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

J) retrieving the telephone number of the receiver device from a database.

4. – 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method of establishing e-mail communication according to claim 1, further comprising establishing communication from a central host device having a database to sender and receiver devices at remote locations, all with access to the ~~Public Switched Telephone Network~~ public switched telephone network (PSTN), without the need of being connected to the Internet, and ~~allowing the collection of~~ collecting information from meters in the sender and/or receiver devices, including the steps of:

a) setting up a telephone connection from the central host device to the sender and receiver devices at the remote locations;

b) accepting a call by the receiver device;

c) establishing a data link, and point-to-point (PPP) connection between the sender and receiver devices;

d) transferring information to the host device over TCP/IP;

e) terminating the data link and telephone call; and

f) updating ~~of~~ the database ~~by~~ of the host device with the ~~received~~ transferred information.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method of establishing e-mail communication according to claim 1, further comprising establishing communication among a central host device and sender and receiver devices at remote locations, all with access to the ~~Public Switched Telephone NetWork~~ public switched telephone network (PSTN), without the need of being connected to the Internet, and ~~allowing the transfer of~~ transferring information from meters in the sender and/or receiver devices to the central host device, including the steps of:

a) setting up a telephone connection to the central host device by the ~~device at the~~

~~remote location~~ sender and receiver devices at the remote locations;

b) accepting a call by the host device;

c) establishing a data link, and point-to-point (PPP) connection between the sender and receiver devices;

d) transferring information to the host device over TCP/IP;

e) terminating the data link and telephone call; and

f) updating ~~of~~ the database ~~by~~ of the host device with the ~~received~~ transferred information.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Stand-alone~~ A stand-alone apparatus which ~~is able to perform~~ performs all the applicable steps presented in claim 9, both as receiver and sender device, at the remote locations.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Host~~ A host apparatus which ~~is able to perform~~ performs all the applicable steps of the central host device presented in claim 9, at the site of central host device.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method of providing automated network functionality of an in-house main network for controlling in-house appliances as a ~~TeleMail-based~~ telemail-based application, comprising the steps of:

a) connecting a ~~System Control Unit~~ system control unit to a ~~TeleMail~~ telemail device, and to the in-house main network, which ~~TeleMail~~ telemail device ~~is capable of performing~~ performs the steps of the receiver device in claim 1;

b) ~~inserting Appliance Control Units~~ providing appliance control units between ~~controlled~~ the in-house appliances, and to the in-house main network;

c) installing and configuring a ~~TeleControl~~ telecontrol application which provides a ~~Graphical User Interface~~ graphical user interface (GUI) program on the ~~TeleMail~~ telemail device;

d) invoking the ~~TeleControl~~ telecontrol ~~Graphical User Interface~~ graphical user interface (GUI) program;

e) activating controls in the ~~Graphical User Interface~~ graphical user interface (GUI), which are directly related to an ~~addressable~~ appliance;

f) invoking a ~~Common Gateway Interface~~ common gateway interface (GCI) process on the ~~TeleMail~~ telemail device, to transfer an instruction to the ~~addressed~~ appliance through the ~~System Control Unit~~ system control unit, and the main network, to the ~~Appliance Control Unit~~ appliance control unit;

g) receiving and evaluating instructions by the ~~Appliance Control Unit~~ appliance control unit, which instructions are sent as one or more e-mail message(s) by a sender to the ~~TeleMail~~ telemail device, as receiver, using a method of claim 1;

h) executing of the instructions by the ~~Appliance Control Unit~~ appliance control unit; and

i) closing of the ~~TeleControl~~ telecontrol ~~Graphical User Interface~~ graphical user interface program.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 14 further comprising automating the control over the controlled appliances at a receiver device location addressed by a ~~TeleControl~~ telecontrol application, and connected to an in-house main network by means of a ~~Scheduler~~ scheduler as an integrated function of a ~~Graphical User Interface~~ graphical user interface (GUI) application, comprising the steps of:

a) invoking the ~~TeleControl~~ telecontrol ~~Graphical User Interface~~ graphical user interface program;

b) activating the ~~Scheduler~~ scheduler control in the ~~TeleControl~~ telecontrol ~~Graphical User Interface~~ graphical user interface program;

c) invoking and presenting the ~~Scheduler Graphical User Interface~~ scheduler graphical user interface;

d) configuring the ~~Scheduler~~ scheduler;

e) scheduling of actions at user-definable moments, and at user-definable fixed or irregular intervals;

f) closing of the ~~Scheduler Graphical User Interface~~ scheduler graphical user interface;

g) closing of the ~~TeleControl~~ telecontrol ~~Graphical User Interface~~ graphical user interface program; and

h) ~~independently background~~ executing the scheduled actions by the ~~Scheduler~~ scheduler function.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Stand-alone~~ A stand-alone or ~~TeleMail-integrated~~ telemail-integrated ~~System Control Unit~~ system control unit to be connected to the ~~TeleMail~~ telemail device, and to the main network, which ~~is able to perform~~ performs all the applicable steps presented in claim 14.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Stand-alone~~ A stand-alone or appliance-integrated ~~Appliance Control Unit~~ appliance control unit to be connected to the addressed appliance, and to the main network, which ~~is able to perform~~ performs all the applicable steps presented in claim 14.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 14 wherein the ~~System Control Unit~~ system control unit ~~identifier~~ is unique, and the ~~Appliance Control Unit~~ appliance control unit has an assignable identifier in order to allow the method to uniquely qualify a home automation network, and the ~~member Appliance Control Units~~ appliance control units connected to it.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for performing the method of claim 1, which apparatus is connected to a computer through an interface and which ~~is~~ independently ~~able to~~

~~perform~~ performs the steps, both as receiver and sender device, of:

A) establishing a data link, and point-to-point (PPP) connection between the sender and receiver devices;

B) transferring one or more e-mail message(s) from the sender device to the receiver device over TCP/IP;

D) setting up a telephone connection and data link from the sender device to the receiver device;

E) accepting a call by the receiver device;

F) storing of electronic mail message(s) on the receiver device; and

G) terminating the data link and telephone connection.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the interface is a RS-232 interface.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, which ~~is further able to perform~~ performs the steps of:

C) composing one or more electronic mail messages on the sender device through a graphical user interface (GUI) application;

I) visually presenting the electonic mail message, including attached files, by a graphical user interface (GUI) application on the receiver device; and

J) retrieving the telephone number of the receiver from a database.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~Stand-alone~~ A stand-alone apparatus ~~to be~~ installed at the remote location which ~~is able to perform~~ performs all the applicable steps presented in claim 10, both as receiver and sender device.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~Host~~ A host apparatus ~~to be~~ installed at the site of the central host device which ~~is able to perform~~ performs all the applicable steps presented in claim 9, both as receiver and sender device.